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Regulators estimate \$2 billion needed to rescue MCorp bank

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal bank regulators estimated Thursday they will spend \$2 billion to rescue the 20 failed banks of the Dallas-based MCorp in the second costliest bank rescue in history.

L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which backs commercial bank deposits, said he foresees no failures rivaling it in the immediate future.

Regulators picked Banc One Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, the nation's 25th largest banking company, from among six firms bidding to take over the insolvent banks with \$13.1 billion in assets.

Banc One Chairman John B. McCoy assumes the chairmanship of the Texas institutions on July 5 and will operate them under the name of Bank One Texas.

The Ohio company, one of the most innovative retail banking operations in the country, is contributing \$500

million in a complex arrangement that will permit it to exclude the Texas operation from its consolidated balance sheet and maintain its record as one of the nation's five most profitable banks.

The MCorp banks have been under federal control since March 28 when regulators stripped them from the parent holding company, leaving five banks and a trust operation still in private hands.

Seidman said \$2 billion was the agency's "best estimate" of the bailout cost, but cautioned that could end up being \$200 million to \$300 million too high or too low. Most of the subsidy comes from covering losses on the failed banks' \$3 billion to \$3.5 billion in sour commercial real estate loans.

The FDIC will be part owner of Bank One Texas for at least five years.

Soccer

(Continued from page 1)

of everyone involved in the program and put responsibility on each person," she said.

In her letter, Johnston said she had hoped A&M would upgrade the women's soccer program to full varsity status. Currently the team is a Varsity Level II program.

"The Varsity II program was designed to meet a specific need, which was to enable student-athletes to participate in an NCAA sport," Opal said.

"But the funding sources would not be equal or equitable to what a full-supported team would be."

The A&M rifle team is the only other Varsity II sport.

The Athletic Department's only responsibility to the women's soccer team is to make sure it meets NCAA requirements. The Recreational Sports Department is responsible for all other aspects of the program, in-

cluding equipment and travel arrangements.

The soccer team is supported by the University's general operating fund, which provides it with about \$13,000 per year.

It's possible for a Varsity II team to be promoted to full-varsity status, but the team must have an outstanding record for the A&M Athletic Council to consider it.

Bob Wilson, a member of the Aggie Club in Washington, D.C., and a supporter of the women's soccer team, said he thinks A&M needs to give the women's soccer team more support.

"A&M has not been terribly supportive of women's soccer," Wilson said. "The team is totally underfunded relative to other club teams. After all, these women do represent A&M."

Opal said she is concerned about the confusion Johnston's letter created for many people. She said she has received several

phone calls from prospective recruits and their parents who want to know if A&M will have a women's soccer program in the future.

Opal said she assures the callers that the women's soccer team will continue at the same level, despite the fact that Johnston's letter makes it look like women's soccer was demoted.

Opal said she hopes improvements in the program can develop through better avenues of communication.

A member of the women's soccer team, Maria Theologos, said she was not personally affected by Johnston's letter.

She said she was afraid, however, that Johnston might have driven away recruits because it sounded like there was no motivation to play soccer for Texas A&M.

"I hope that with a new coach there will be better communication between the coach and players, and better understanding of program regulations," Theologos said.

School

(Continued from page 1)

situation is a good role model."

Costa and Calvert agree that, because the population of Texas has become so culturally diverse, more nationalities and races should be represented in situations like this.

"We've gone past the idea of naming things after heroes of the Alamo," Calvert said. "The celebration of the Alamo is a celebration of an older and a macho Texas. This does not reflect the diversity and condition of the state now."

Some members of the Bryan School Board and the local commu-

nity want to find another place to bear Travis' name.

At a press conference Thursday, Lou Zaeske, founder of the American Ethnic Coalition and a Texas Senate candidate, offered a solution to repair the "ungracious, ungrateful and unconscionable disparaging of William Barret Travis." He suggested that the Bryan School Board rename Bryan High School to William Barret Travis High School.

"Notwithstanding the fact that Travis was estranged from his wife, having left her in Alabama with his comfortable bank account . . . and, notwithstanding the fact that Travis owned slaves, as did many in his day, William Barret Travis is a hero of

the Texas Revolution," Zaeske said. "A Bryan public school should continue to be named in his honor."

Travis Bryan Jr., a member of the Bryan School Board and a descendant of Travis, will introduce a different solution at the next board meeting, he said.

"We should change the name of the new junior high school, which nobody's ever set foot in, from Sam Rayburn to William Barret Travis Junior High School," Bryan said. "Then we can rename the Bryan School Administration Building the Sam Rayburn Building. My logic is that everybody wins and we'll all ride off into the sunset and live happily ever after."

Batman

(Continued from page 3)

Now all of a sudden this man is an avenger — you don't mess with him."

Jones said Bobbi's Books had several old Batman comic books which dated back to the early 1950s that cost about \$45 each. Last Friday, a man came into the store and purchased all of them.

Jones said he had four Batman comic books from that same time period that he put on the shelf after the man left, and they too were all sold by Monday night.

He said back issues of Batman comic books are becoming hard to find because collectors have been buying them up since the start of the character's new popularity.

Lawana Rodgers, assistant manager of Waldenbooks in Post Oak Mall, said the store has seen dramatic increases in sales of Batman material since last year.

"Since the news release of the outcome of the movie in November, up until March, we had an increase of approximately 25 percent," Rodgers said. "Since Batman has been released, we sell approximately 50

books related to it per day. That's all been since last Friday."

Rodgers said Batman-related items that Waldenbooks has in stock include "Batman: The Making of the Movie," a large paperback which she said was the store's biggest Batman-related seller so far, comic books, pins, graphic novels, fiction books and bookmarks.

Rodgers said the movie is responsible for the increase in sales.

"I'd say the movie is making all the Batman items so popular," she said. "We have books and things which mark (this year's 50th anniversary of the Batman character), but what really boosts sales is the movie. Karate Kid III is out, too, and the book is selling like wildfire."

Waldenbooks will continue to sell Batman items long after the hype surrounding the movie has gone, Rodgers said.

"I think it will keep going because they keep coming out with a lot more Batman books," she said. "People are always looking for something different. The book always lasts longer than the movie. We still sell Star Trek books on a regular basis. Even if the movie had been a

flop, we still would have sold a lot of books."

Jones said he thinks the interest in Batman will subside in time, but may start again if a sequel to the movie is made.

"It will eventually slow down," Jones said. "There'll come a point where some of the old comics just aren't available, or they'll reach the point where people say, 'No, that's just too much.' They might come to a point, with all the Batman T-shirts, pins, toothbrushes and so on, where people just get saturated."

David Reed, assistant manager of Camelot Records in Post Oak Mall, said the store has been selling out its supply of the new Batman compact disc by Prince as soon as they've been getting them.

"We've been selling everything we've got as soon as we've gotten it," Reed said. "I guess that says something for the success of the movie."

A spokesman from Hasting's Books, Records and Tapes said they've had great success with the selling of the compact disc. She said they sold out their entire first shipment, which was about two weeks ago.

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